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10 MAY 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence  
Deputy Director for Plans  
Deputy Director for Science & Technology  
Deputy Director for Support ✓

SUBJECT : CIA Participation in Community On-line  
Intelligence System (COINS)

REFERENCE : ExDir Memo for Deputy Directors of 28 Feb 66,  
Subj: Agency Role in TIPS Network

1. Attached for guidance is a statement pertaining to the Agency's role in implementing the President's desire for improved real-time communication of information between components of the Intelligence Community.

2. This statement will be used for planning purposes. Each directorate is requested to develop responsive programming through regular command channels.



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L. K. White  
Executive Director-Comptroller

Attachment: CIA Policy Statement on Community On-line  
Intelligence System (COINS)

cc: D/DCI/NIPE  
Chairman, CODIB  
D/PPB

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CIA POLICY STATEMENT ON  
COMMUNITY ON-LINE INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM  
(COINS)

1. Purpose

It is the purpose of this statement to provide authoritative guidance to Agency operating officials on CIA's role in the development of an on-line intelligence system within the USIB community.

2. Authority

The program for developing this system is authorized by statute and by National Security Council Directives, which generally charge DCI to develop effective intelligence support for the highest levels of Government, and to coordinate the activities of the intelligence community. The community has been specifically directed by the President to carry out initial phases of a program. And the DCI has been specifically directed with coordinating the community response.

- National Security Act of 1947, as amended
- NSCID No. 1
- PFIAB Memo to the President dtd 15 June 1965 (Tab A)
- McGeorge Bundy Memo to the DCI dtd 15 July 1965.

3. General Guidance

CIA, as a member of the intelligence community, shall participate as fully as possible. Apart from our participation as one member

of the community, the Agency shall take steps necessary to assume and discharge a central role in the implementation of a community system.

4. Purpose of Participation

Our participation as an agency is to develop, test, and move to operational status techniques and methods which will permit a more ready exchange among and between Agency and community components having a need for similar or related information. Orderly progress will necessitate arrangements for developing standards and procedures for common use and cooperative undertakings to reduce costs.

5. Security

The operational system shall be designed to accommodate the exchange of multi-level security information from all sources. Any problems encountered in the search for means of handling all-source information will be referred to the Director of Security for advice. The Director of Security will seek the approval of the Executive Director-Comptroller if any security relaxation is appropriate and advisable.

6. Extent of Participation

a. Directorate participation, as appropriate, will be commensurate with assigned responsibilities.

b. The Agency will provide the community network store

and forward switch. The installation of the switching system will be phased to support an approved implementation plan.

7. Phasing

a. During the initial phase (COINS I), community components will develop arrangements informally and largely on a bilateral basis. Experiments and semi-operational tests will be conducted to help define the problems, and the premises and limitations of inter-component on-line communications and data exchange. CIA, during this phase, will limit its central role to monitoring its own activities, gathering data and developing plans for implementing its commitment as the community network store and forward switch. This phase will be scheduled to end during the latter part of 1967.

b. Assuming that satisfactory progress has been achieved in the initial phase (COINS I) according to schedule, the second phase (COINS II) should be initiated during the course of 1968. Certain Agency links and the central switch should then be operational and CIA should be ready to accept its central obligation for a full and effective community system. (TAB B)

8. Role of Participating Components

The following reflects a guidance base from which specifics, as appropriate, would be developed in an implementation plan.

All

Identification and data specifications for candidate system

files including caveats on usage.

- Requirements for user terminals.
- Local user security procedures.
- Monitoring a system development.

Office of Communications

- Communication security.
- Interface requirements.
- Community store and forward switch.

Office of Computer Services

- Computer terminal.
- System software design.
- Computer security design.
- Recommendations on available Agency computer files.
- Programming required for files assigned to OCS computer.

Office of Central Reference

- Requirements for user terminal.
- Identification and data specifications on candidate system files.
- Coordination of data standards and data language requirements.

National Photographic Interpretation Center

- Identification and data specifications on candidate system files.

- Requirements for user terminal.
- Computer terminal.
- Programming for files assigned to NPIC computer.

Office of Research and Development

- Research and development of advanced techniques, methods, and hardware in support of CIA operating components participating in COINS.

Clandestine Services

- The Clandestine Services is developing a large (1.5 billion characters) counterintelligence biographic data file which will be available for remote inquiry by participants in the National Agency Check System.

9. Agency Coordination

Planning and coordination of implementation action and development of specific estimates of money and manpower costs will be the responsibility of a CIA Task Force on COINS composed of representatives from CCS, ORD, OCR, NPIC, RID, OC, and PPB. The Chairman will be appointed by the Executive Director-Comptroller.

Attachments:

- Tab A - Excerpt from PFIAB Memorandum dtd 15 June 1965
- Tab B - Schematic of Community On-line Intelligence System (COINS)

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EXCERPT FROM PHILAD MEMORANDUM  
OF 15 JUNE 1965

"Recommendation No. 2: That the Technical Information Processing System (TIPS) project, now under way within the National Security Agency, be expanded to include participation by other member agencies of the intelligence community in an experimental operating system constituting a first step toward interagency (and interbuilding) information handling. Since results should be sought from the experiment as promptly as feasible, the participation of other agencies should be achieved by September of 1965; the capability for extensive handling of the Russian biography problem should be available in the community-wide system by the summer of 1966; and by the summer of 1967 it should be possible to exchange outputs from various mechanized sources in the fashion pioneered by the TIPS project.

[Only through such experimental operational trials can the intelligence community come to grips with the wide variety of program problems involved, including those of security compartmentation, the encryption of communications between the computer/information base and the user locations, and other problems. In order to make such a trial effective, it may be necessary to expand the scope of the information maintained in the TIPS system and, if so, this should be done with caution as to the total amount of material thus added. The intention should be to establish a system that will in fact be used by workers in at least a few agencies as a better way to meet day-to-day tasks; however, the system should be regarded as experimental and there should be no attempt to insure that in its experimental form its operation can be economically justified.]"



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